

Amend B / #11
J 5/14/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

SERIAL NO: 09/646,579

ART UNIT: 1645

FILING DATE: 12/27/2000

EXAMINER: Fields, I.

INVENTOR: Ebringer

TITLE: **Diagnosis of Spongiform or De-Myelinating Disease**

BOX: FEE

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231



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RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION, 37 CFR §1.111

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated November 7, 2001, the time period for response thereto being set to expire May 7, 2002, by virtue of the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the following amendment and accompanying remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 3, please delete the paragraph at lines 3-11, and insert in its place the following paragraph:

B1

-- In carrying out the present invention, the test is for antibodies which bind to an epitope present in or derived from the *Acinetobacter* species. The antigen used in the test may be the whole organism or at least one prepared peptide sequence corresponding to an *Acinetobacter* epitope. Alternatively, peptide sequences may be used which have minor variations in amino-acid sequence from the above-mentioned epitopes or prepared peptides but are conformationally sufficiently similar to them that they also bind to the relevant antibodies. For example, peptides having the sequence RFSAWGAE (SEQ. ID. NO: 1) or ISRFAWGEV (SEQ. ID. NO: 2) may be used. --